

Environment Strategic Reference Group

Date: Monday 22 August 2022

Time: 5:30-7:43pm

Location: Council Chambers / Boardroom (Shire Hall) and via MS Teams

Members	Present	Apology
Andrew Merchant	✓	
Francesca Douglas	✓	
Glenn Sant	✓	
Ngaire Mccarthy	✓	Left at 7:00pm
Barbara Jolley	✓	
Rowland Ware	✓	
David John Clayton	✓	
William D'Arcy	✓	
Geraldine Cox	✓	
Vicki Cullen	✓	
Harry Burkitt – Standing Guest		✓
Councillors (Any attending Councillors are voting members, not guests)	Present	Apology
Councillor Michael Banasik (Chair)	✓	
Councillor Briggs (Deputy Chair)	✓	
Mayor Matt Gould	✓	
Councillor Brandstater		✓
Council Staff	Present	Apology
Simon Harrison, Acting Director Shire Services	✓	
Mandy Marino, Acting Manager Waste and Environmental Services	✓	
David Henry, Acting Environmental Services Team Leader	✓	
Ibrahim Muharrem, Acting Environmental Assessment Planner	✓	
Brianna Murray, Waste Technical Officer – Minute Taker	✓	

Item	Notes	Agreed Actions
1. Acknowledgement of country	Clr Banasik read out the acknowledgement of country.	NIL
2. Attendance and apologies	As noted above.	NIL
3. Disclosure of interests	It should be noted that the draft minutes initially circulated incorrectly stated that a member of the SRG was a member of South 32. Following distribution of the draft minutes, the SRG member brought it to the Council's attention that she has no connection with South 32.	NIL
4. Confirmation of previous minutes	Not applicable – first Strategic Reference Group (SRG) meeting.	NIL
5. Committee Induction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions from each member • Overview of the Terms of Reference & Scope • Overview of the Code of Conduct • Meeting Scheduling and timing • Remote Attendance 	<p>Attendees introduced themselves with a brief outline of their background and why they applied to be a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Cr Banasik outlined the Terms of Reference and reiterated the importance of keeping these meetings at a high/strategic level, and that unrelated concerns or operational issues (e.g. pot holes, missed bins etc.) be raised via Council's communication channels.</p> <p>The Strategic Reference Group Terms of Reference and Operating Guidelines were sent to all members via email with the agenda and was available in hard copy during the meeting.</p> <p>No objections were raised by the Committee. Members were asked speak to a Councillor or Council staff if in doubt or if there is a problem.</p> <p>Cr Banasik suggested that the next meeting will be held on a Monday and if there are any issues it will be discussed at the next meeting. There were no objections to holding future meetings on Monday. An invite for the next two meetings will be sent to the group soon.</p> <p>Hybrid meetings will continue with remote attendance via Microsoft Teams an option. The in-person meeting location will always be held in the Shire Hall Boardroom.</p> <p>Mandy advised that Harry Burkett from Colong Foundation is a standing guest and will attend meetings where Warragamba Dam is discussed. If anyone has expertise in a certain agenda subject we can invite them along.</p>	

William D’Arcy expressed his concerns that the Wilton development, (including number and of grey roofs), is an issue and is relevant to this SRG however, it is not listed in the scope. Mayor Gould advised that this matter sits across a couple of SRGs and there will be overlaps.

	<p>Geraldine Cox asked whether SRG's can merge. Mayor Gould advised that SRG's will not be joined however, the minutes for each SRG meeting will be made available on the Council website. Mayor Gould confirmed that sub-committees between different groups can be formed.</p> <p>Mayor Gould advised that Council wants to understand the thoughts of the Committee on matters relevant to the Committee. The community has a lot of knowledge and Council would like to get as many insights as possible. Council is changing the way we hold meetings and SRG members should be given opportunity to drive this meeting as much as Council.</p> <p>Rowland Ware expressed his concerns about how such a big list of key focus areas can be covered in 3 meetings per year and suggested creating sub-committees in between the scheduled SRG meetings.</p> <p>Mayor Gould expressed concerns surrounding resourcing to run sub-committees and advised that teething difficulties are to be expected as the creation of SRG's is new. The group was requested to give feedback so future meetings can be run more effectively.</p> <p>Mayor Gould explained that each Councillor was given portfolios to focus on and the 5 SRG's were created to align to each key strategic pillar of Council and will be used to provide advice at a strategic level. The intention of creating the SRG's is to have the community involved and aware of what council is doing. This may overlap into different SRG's areas.</p> <p>William D'Arcy questioned whether the group can receive feedback about if their suggestions achieved anything. Mayor Gould advised that attendees can make recommendations to Council and will work out strategies to ensure ideas go somewhere.</p> <p>Glenn Sant mentioned that he would like to hear from staff about what residents are raising with them. Glenn suggested that the highest risk issues should form the framework for sub-committees. As a resident, Glenn loses track of strategic projects in the Environment space, especially regarding Wilton town development. Action "The formation of subcommittees be investigated and outcomes be provided at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>6. CSP Strategies and Delivery Plan Actions</p>	<p>Mandy Marino gave a presentation on key strategies and activities of the Waste and Environment Section</p>	<p>ACTION: David Henry to provide a briefing on CPCP</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP alignment summary • Delivery Plan Actions • Other key documents / plans / strategies etc • Issues and priorities ahead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Strategic Plan Delivery Plan (2022-23): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The CSP is a 10-year plan put together by the Waste and Environment team which contains the biggest issues facing the environment. ○ Hard copies of the CSP were made available to the group. ○ Wollondilly has a huge geographical area with a diverse and significant natural environment. Many of the projects Waste & Environment team complete are grant funded requiring the team are trying to balance the resources they have and apply for grants at the same time which can be very time consuming. ○ Mandy urged the group to have a look at the CSP and think about what's important to them and what the group would like to see happening. Actions with a black dot next are funded while actions without a black dot are either partially or not funded. ○ Mandy Marino also requested for the group to provide feedback on the Delivery Plan in terms of what's important to them and what the group would like to see happening. Council staff will then be able to put resources into it and apply for funding if any grants appear. • Waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A future of waste services survey was carried out in July 2021 and lots of residents provided feedback. The feedback was taken on board and it resulted in festive season weekly recycling being introduced. The feedback received from the survey will also assist the waste team to form the next waste collection contract. ○ Feedback from the survey indicated that many residents would like Wollondilly Council to provide a weekly waste collection service similar to Camden Council. Mandy explained that Camden is a much smaller local government area and the bin presentation rates are quite low with around 35%-40% of people presenting both recycling and garden organics bins for emptying every week. ○ Tender evaluations are underway for the regional waste disposal tender which is set to commence in July 2024 and is a joint project with Wingecarribee, Camden & Campbelltown Council. ○ One option in the tender was FOGO (food organics and garden organics) which involves food scraps being place into the green-lid organics bin and being emptied weekly. NSW 	
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	<p>EPA mandated that all NSW Councils must introduce FOGO to households by 2030.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A consideration that Wollondilly and our neighbouring Council's need to make during the tender evaluation process is that the NSW EPA haven't provided information about the output quality of the FOGO collected, especially when biodegradable plastic products are involved. ○ A group decision with our regional partner Council's will be made. ○ Wollondilly currently have a fantastic quality of garden organics with less than 1% contamination rate. Once FOGO is implemented, Wollondilly's contamination rate will drastically increase until residents adjust to the change. ○ The cost of FOGO is offset by less landfilling but there is a cost to introduce the service. The introduction of FOGO for rural households is another issue the waste team are currently working through. ○ The Mixed Waste Organic Material (MWO) saga and the advised of the similar risk surrounding FOGO. ○ There are many items to cover in the waste space but the above mentioned are just some examples. Tell us what you would like to see in the waste space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environment & Waste Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Draft Sustainability Policy is a big priority for the Environment team and will go to Council on 27th September 2022 and once approved, the team will start developing the Sustainability Strategy. ○ SRG members were requested to think about what they'd like to see in the strategy and to bring ideas to next meeting. ○ William D'Arcy advised that he's not seeing any information about what's happening in Waste and Environment, especially on the Council website. ○ Simon Harrison advised that he'll take this information on board and that the SRG's will assist us to make improvements. ○ Ibrahim Muharrem provided attendees with a brief overview of the Integrated Water Management Policy, Strategy & WSUD Guidelines. Cr Briggs recommended that a presentation is provided to the group on this topic. ● Environmental Resource Centre & Robin Davies Wollondilly Community Nursery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ibrahim Muharrem requested the groups help to promote the Robyn Davies Wollondilly Community Nursery and free 	<p>ACTION: SRG members to think about what they'd like to see in the Sustainability Policy and bring ideas to next meeting</p> <p>ACTION: Mandy Marino to set up informal email group for SRG members</p> <p>ACTION: Ibrahim Muharrem to provide a presentation on the Integrated Water Management Policy at future SRG meeting</p> <p>ACTION: Luke Brash to</p>
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	<p>plant giveaway per quarter. Ibrahim would also like the group to have a think about what SustainaDilly courses they would like to see provided in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Glenn Sant made the following environmental education suggestions to Ibrahim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact the FrogID app developer to find out how many species of frogs are in Wollondilly and sharing more stats like this with the community. ▪ Glenn suggested that Council promote “Feathered Friends” which is a sanctuary that supports the protection of native birds and partners with landholders to plant bird friendly trees. <p>Cr Banasik enquired about whether welcome packs are still being sent to new residents. Mayor Gould advised that this ceased some time ago. Cr Banasik requested for this to be re-instated.</p>	<p>investigate the promotion of FrogID stats</p> <p>ACTION: Luke Brash to investigate to seek assistance from landowners about “Feathered Friends”</p> <p>ACTION: Chair to investigate the re-issuing of welcome packs to new residents</p>
<p>7. General Business</p>	<p>Cr Banasik suggested the following sub-committee ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raising dam wall ● Major streams (Bargo to Potholes bridge /Nepean to Sydney Water dam) ● Frogs in Wollondilly <p>Geraldine Cox mentioned that she would like to see more promotion for composting & worm farming and also mentioned that following the bushfires, the number of wildlife in Wollondilly has dramatically decreased. To compensate for the fire loss, Geraldine suggested that Council speak with Endeavour Energy to request for them to install nest boxes when trimming trees, adding that the Men’s Shed could possibly create the nest boxes.</p> <p>Ibrahim Muharrem advised that the Tahmoor Men’s Shed were approached to provide some examples of nest boxes that will be kept at the Robyn Davies Community Nursery.</p>	
<p>Requests for next meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cr Banasik requested for the group to email any topics for future discussion to Mandy: Mandy.marino@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au - Council staff to provide a brief overview of the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) - SRG members requested to think about what they’d like to see in the Sustainability Policy and to bring ideas to next meeting. - Mandy Marino to provide update on status of waste processing and disposal tender. 	<p>ACTION: SRG members to send ideas for agenda topics to Mandy Marino via email for review</p>

Meeting Closed	7:43pm	N/A
Next Meeting	7 November 2022 at 5:30pm – Banksia Boardroom, Shire Hall or Microsoft Teams	N/A

LINKS & ATTACHMENTS

(also emailed to the group)

- Community Strategic Plan
<https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/council/corporate-planning-and-reporting/community-strategic-plan/>
- Delivery Plan
<https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/council/corporate-planning-and-reporting/delivery-program/>
- Local Strategic Planning Statement
<https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/guidelines-and-controls/local-strategic-planning-statement/>
- Biosecurity Policy -
<https://www.yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/58926/widgets/299963/documents/198691>
- Build Your Own Wildlife Nest Box (Local Land Services) -
https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/656610/GS-LLS-Wildlife-Nest-Box-10-2017-Accessible.pdf
- Environment Strategic Group Terms of Reference and Operating Guidelines -
<https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings/council-committees-and-advisory-groups/strategic-reference-group-and-advisory-group-expression-of-interest/strategic-reference-groups/environment-strategic-reference-group/>
- Integrated Water Management Policy, Strategy and Guidelines -
<https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/environment-biodiversity-and-sustainability/water-management/integrated-water-management/>

- Strategic Group Slideshow Presentation – attached to email
- Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy -
<https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/waste-services/waste-management-strategy-and-action-plan-community-forum-registration/>